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U.S. Team Planning Trip to Israel To Question Officials in Spy Case

By STEPHEN ENGELBERG

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 — Reagan Administration officials said today that a team of Government officials would be likely to travel to Israel soon to question Israelis implicated in the espionage case against Jonathan Jay Pollard.

Officials said the interviews of foreign diplomats involved in an espionage case would be without precedent. Typically, the United States expels foreign diplomats implicated in spy cases.

In this instance, because the United States and Israel are allies, United States officials have insisted on Israeli cooperation.

But a Justice Department official said today that the department remained irritated over what he said was a lack of cooperation by the Israelis. He said the department had learned more about Mr. Pollard's activities through news reports from Jerusalem than through the State Department's official channels.

Officials stressed that there were still differences to be worked out on the ground rules for questioning three Israeli diplomats described as Mr. Pollard's handlers.

It was not clear, for instance, whether the Israelis would be obliged to execute sworn statements or whether their testimony could be used as evidence against Mr. Pollard.

Nor was it clear whether any Israeli official accused of dealing with Mr. Pollard could face criminal charges in the United States. The Justice Department has said in cases involving hijackings that it would insist on prosecuting any foreign nationals who violate United States laws. But Joseph DiGenova, the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia, would not

say whether that policy would be applied in this case.

Of the three Israelis whom American investigators would most like to question, two — Ilan Ravid and Yosef Yagor — were Israeli diplomats stationed in the United States and would thus have diplomatic immunity.

Investigators also want to interview Rafael Eitan, who has been described as the senior Israeli official responsible for Mr. Pollard's activities in the United States. A former Navy analyst, Mr. Pollard has been ordered held without bond after being charged with passing numerous documents to the Israelis.

Israeli sources said that while no date has been set for the interviews, the Americans were pushing for "sooner" while the Israelis were pressing for "later" so that publicity over the affair would fade.

In recent weeks, unnamed Israeli officials have described how Mr. Pollard came to be recruited as a spy. They have also explained his value to Israeli intelligence.

Administration officials had no comment on an article in The Chicago Tribune today that said information provided by Mr. Pollard helped the Israelis in their October air raid on the Palestine Liberation Organization's Tunis headquarters.

Quoting Israeli sources, The Tribune said United States documents helped the Israelis to pinpoint the location of the headquarters of Yasir Arafat, the leader of the organization. They were also said to have aided the Israelis in designing electronic countermeasures that permitted the planes to escape detection by United States Navy radar in the Mediterranean.